

Cpl. Jeff Hawk



Lance Cpl. Newton Tilson, 22, a radio repair technician from Collinsville, Ill., troubleshoots a MRC-138 radio in the MCCES Maintenance School's War Room during the last phase of his nearly year-long training.

## COVER STORY

**16** The Marine Corps trains its communicators in modern-day communications warfare.

## FEATURES



### Hello Panama!

Take a walk with us as we go to this Central American country where a company from the 25th Marine Regiment is standing guard.



### Engineers

Marines from Camp Lejeune learn to survive a "mine encounter" under the careful eyes of experts at this Engineer Training Area.



### Freedom Train

Did you know Marines guarded the Nation's most precious documents more than 50 years ago as they toured the country on a train? Read about it!



### Historic Chest

A sea chest belonging to the "Grand Old Man of the Corps," will be part of a feature exhibit at the Marine Corps Historical Division.



### Lifestyles

The Naval Academy's light-weight football team has been winning with the help and instruction of this Marine. Find out who he is.

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### On the Cover

Marines from the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School, Twentynine Palms, Calif., establish communication in the field.

Photo by Cpl. Jeff Hawk

*Marines*  
M A G A Z I N E  
Online

<http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>

*My pay was recently checked in the amount of \$207. Being in the financial field, I was able to quickly call the section at Defense Finance Accounting Service, Kansas City, to find out that I was checked for tuition assistance. The TA section did not have a record of my successful completion of a course.*

*I had received a request for confirmation that I had passed the course, which I mailed to Pensacola, Fla., in December 1995. I never heard from them again until this pay checkage 18 months later.*

*My complaint is not that some paperwork was lost, but that they initiated a pay checkage without ever telling me or warning me. Had I been a junior Marine, I may not have had the resources and records at my disposal to quickly fax another copy of the grade, a record of the checkage, and request for repayment. If I were a junior Marine, I might not have had the resources to feed my family, put gas in my car, etc., while I tried to figure out where my money went.*

*As it stands, it will take approximately two weeks for me to be repaid money that should never have been*

*checked from me in the first place.*

*I must say that the lady at TA in Pensacola (Ms. Kathy Wright) and the gentleman at DFAS Kansas City (James) were both extremely helpful in resolving this. I am worried though, because James tells me this checkage initiative is a recent occurrence and Ms. Wright mentioned that there were "thousands" of Marines whose pay has been checked and they are busily reimbursing them as fast as they can (thus the two-week delay for me to be repaid). The bottom line, sir, I think that in order to avoid this problem, a Marine should be notified on his LES before a checkage is initiated. If he fails to take proper action in 30 days, then at least he was warned.*

**Staff Sgt. Jose D. Contreras**  
**2nd Marine Division**  
**Camp Lejeune, N.C.**

*First, I would like to thank you for participating in the commandant's Marine Mail program and surfacing an important pay issue.*

*You can take pride in the fact that the issue of TA checkages you raised,*

*after review, resulted in a request to modify the Total Force System pay checkage process.*

*I regret that your pay was checked without verification of the validity of the checkage, especially after the lengthy interval between actions.*

*Your positive response and action to surface the problems you encountered have identified weaknesses in the process. Your mail served to bring change so Marines in the future will not experience similar series of events.*

*Because of your actions, the system will be modified to delay the actual checkage and print the forecasted date of checkage on the LES. The programmed delay will provide sufficient time for Marines to arrange their finances or rebut the checkage.*

*I would like to thank you again for bringing this issue to light so it could be fixed and for validating the positive contributions of Marine Mail.*

**Lt. Gen. J.W. Oster**  
**Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs and Resources**  
**Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps**

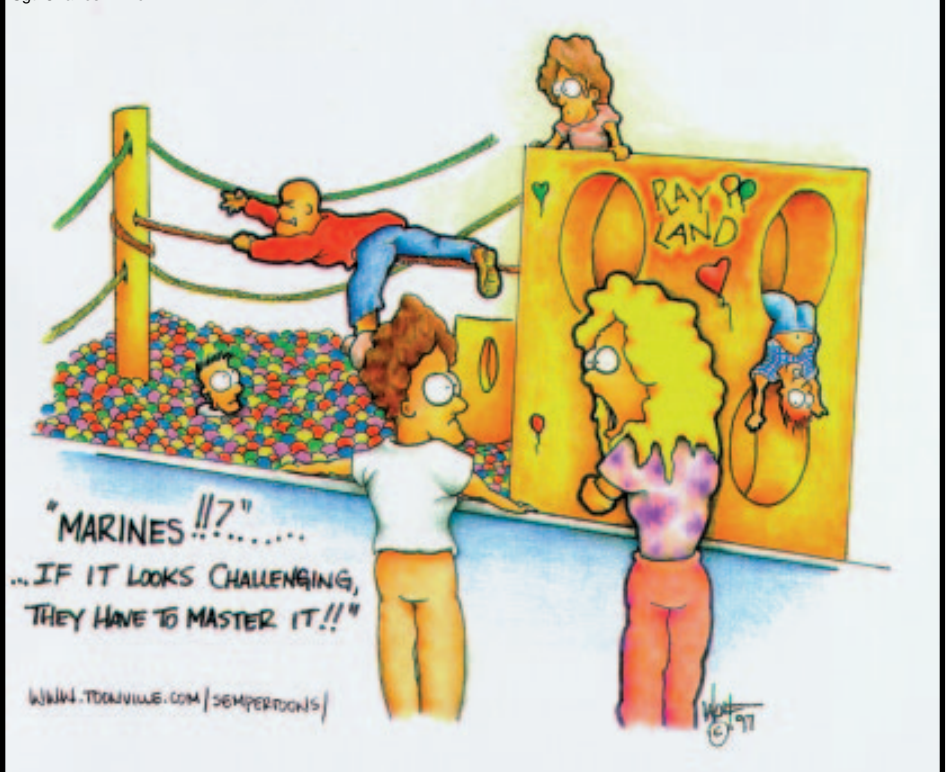
## Marines

**Commandant of the Marine Corps**  
 Gen. Charles C. Krulak  
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**Marines** (USPS 013-867) is published monthly by the Division of Public Affairs, Media Branch, HQMC, 2 Navy Annex, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. Periodicals-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing stations. **Subscriptions:** For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Domestic: \$22.00, foreign: \$27.50 per year. **Internal Distribution:** For internal distribution refer to "PCN 74000000200." The Secretary of the Navy has determined that this publication is necessary in the transaction of business, required by law, of the Department of the Navy. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing Policy Committee. All photos not credited are official USMC photos. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code AREB, 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. **Reader Comments:** Commandant of the Marine Corps, Code PAM, 2 Navy Annex, Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380-1775. **Internet:** Visit Marines Magazine Online at <http://www.usmc.mil/marines.nsf>

Sgt. Charles F. Wolf



## Changes To Active Duty Force Structure

The Marine Corps will enter the 21st century as a slightly smaller fighting force, but with enhanced combat readiness. Force reductions directed by the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review will be phased in over several years.

By FY00, the Corps will be at an active duty end strength of 172,200, down from an authorized end strength of 174,000 at the end of FY97. Personnel cuts will be accomplished primarily through fewer enlistments and natural attrition. Details on reducing the Reserve Component were announced in December 1997. Those reductions are expected to be completed by FY03 and will provide a reserve force of 39,000 Marines.

After the QDR concluded last May, Gen. Charles C. Krulak, Commandant of the Marine Corps, called for a thorough total force structure review. Although the active and reserve components were examined independently by separate working groups, the groups' efforts were linked to develop a comprehensive total force perspective of the Marine Corps for the next century.

Announcing the recommendations resulting from those reviews, Gen. Krulak said, "The purpose ... was to identify and make recommendations to shift Marine Corps structure which no longer contributes significantly to the Corps' warfighting capability into the operating forces and supporting establishment — our warfighting units. The ultimate goal of the review and subsequent structure shifts is to better position the Marine Corps for the 21st century."

Although no areas were "off limits," the focus of the force structure review was to preserve warfighting capabilities by making reductions to units and billets that are no longer as relevant to support the required warfighting capability of the Corps. In this regard, headquarters elements were closely scrutinized for potential billet reductions. For example, Headquarters Marine Corps active duty billets will be reduced by 10 percent, as will the Marine Corps Systems Com-

mand at Quantico, Va.

Division and aircraft wing headquarters will also lose some billets.

Consolidation will play an important role as well. Motor Transport and Landing Support Battalions in the Force Service Support Groups will be consolidated, eliminating headquarters overhead, while continuing to provide necessary levels of support.

In all cases, Gen. Krulak stressed, the overarching consideration is to regulate actions so they do not hurt Marines. "We will not hurt Marines' chances at promotion; we will not hurt their opportunity for reenlistment or retention, and we will not hurt their opportunities for training or follow-on schooling."

—Fred Carr Jr.

## Women's History Month

Women's history is being observed this month with the theme "Living the Legacy of Women's Rights." This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Women's Rights movement.

The history of women in the Marine Corps is a continuum of increased opportunity, spurred by the proven capability of female Marines.

When the first female Marine, Pvt. Opha Mae Johnson, enlisted during World War I, she was one of just 305 women reservists admitted into the Corps to perform clerical duties. All of the women were separated from active duty after the war.

In World War II, more than 19,000 female Marine reservists provided the majority of the manning at all major stateside posts and stations. Although their numbers were greatly reduced after the war, female Marines were here to stay.

In 1948, women were accepted into the regular component of the Marine Corps. During the Korean War, women reservists were mobilized for the first time along with men. During the Vietnam War, the first female Marines were ordered to a combat zone.

During the late 1960s and early 1970s, women in the Marine Corps saw the variety of duties, duty stations, and

# Chronology: Women In The Corps

The following chronology is provided in commemoration of Women's History Month, March 1998:

## 1918-1948

**Aug. 13, 1918** - Opha Mae Johnson, the first woman Marine, enlisted in Washington, D.C. By the end of World War I, 305 female reservists had been admitted into the Marine Corps to perform clerical duties.

**July 30, 1919** - Maj. Gen. George Barnett, the 12th Commandant of the Marine Corps, issued orders for the separation of all women from the Reserve.

**Nov. 7, 1942** - Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, the 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, approved the formation of the United States Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Mrs. Ruth Cheney Streeter of Morristown, N.J., was commissioned a major in the USMCWR and sworn in as the first Director of the Women's Reserve.

**Jan. 29, 1943** - Ruth Cheney Streeter achieved the grade of colonel prior to resigning her commission Dec. 6, 1945.

**Feb. 1943** - Women's continuous active service began during World War II. The first enlisted class of 722 women completed training at Hunter College, N.Y.

**March 13, 1943** - The first women's officer class of 71 candidates forms for training at the U.S. Naval Midshipmen's School, Northhampton, Mass.

**June 1944** - Women Reserves constituted 85 percent of the enlisted personnel on duty at Headquarters Marine Corps.

**Dec. 1945** - Two-thirds of the Women Reserves had been separated or transferred to inactive status as part of the postwar demobilization.

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## Women In The Corps 1948-1967

**June 12, 1948** - Congress passed the Women's Armed Services Integration Act (Public Law 625) which authorized the acceptance of women into the regular component of the Marine Corps.

Women could not exceed two percent of total service strength or hold permanent rank above lieutenant colonel. The Director of Women Marines would hold the temporary rank of colonel.

**Nov. 3, 1948** - Col. Katherine A. Towle, who had been the second Director of the Women's Reserve, was discharged from the Marine Corps Reserve and accepted a Regular commission as a permanent lieutenant colonel. The next day she was appointed the first Director of Women Marines, with the temporary rank of colonel.

**1949** - The 3rd Recruit Training Battalion was formed at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., with Capt. Margaret M. Henderson as the first commanding officer.

**Aug. 1950 - Korean War** - For the first time in history, Women Reserves were mobilized.

**May 1, 1953** - Julia Hamblet became Director of Women Marines as a colonel. She held this post until March 1, 1959.

**1965 - Vietnam War** - A strength increase was approved and, by 1968, there were 2,700 women Marines on active duty.

**March 18, 1967** - Master Sgt. Barbara J. Dulinsky, who had volunteered for duty in Vietnam, reported to the Military Assistance Command in Saigon — the first woman Marine ordered to a combat zone. A total of 28 enlisted women and eight women officers served in Vietnam.

**Nov. 8, 1967** - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Public Law 909-130, a bill which repealed the limits on the number of women in the services, permitted permanent promotion to colonel, and provided for the temporary appointment of women to brigadier general if filling a flag rank billet.

(Next Page)

training opportunities available to them greatly expand.

In 1967, Public Law 909-130 repealed the limits on the number of women in the services, permitted permanent promotion to colonel, and provided for the temporary appointment of women to brigadier general if filling a flag rank billet.

Women were permitted in specified rear echelon elements of the Fleet Marine Force for the first time in 1974.

The following year, the Marine Corps approved the assignment of women to all occupational fields except infantry, artillery, armor, engineers and pilot or air crew.

In 1978, Margaret A. Brewer became the first woman Marine general officer by virtue of her billet as Director of Information.

The 1990s have been an incredible decade for female Marines, beginning with the deployment of approximately 1,000 women to Southwest Asia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. There, they proved themselves in a wide range of combat support operations and made believers out of many skeptics.

The Marine Corps' first woman lieutenant general, Carol A. Mutter, was also the first woman to command a Fleet Marine Force unit. She is currently the deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and has blazed an example for generations of female Marines to follow.

Female Marines have also entered the arena of naval aviation as many of the restrictions on the occupational fields they can serve in have been lifted. The only billets they can not hold are in direct ground combat units.

For the past several years, "firsts" for women in the Corps have been occurring almost daily — from training opportunities and new occupational specialties, to deployments, leadership positions, and recognition.

President Johnson stated in 1967 that, "Our armed forces literally could not operate effectively or efficiently without our women."

Today, as they did in World War I,

women continue to serve their country with pride and distinction. They are truly members of the Few and the Proud — the United States Marines.

—HQMC Public Affairs

## Free Tax Filing

Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit can pack their W-2s alongside their skivvies and extra socks because this year the Corps' free electronic tax filing program is going with them. That is the word from Capt. Charles C. Hale, who coordinates the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program with Marine Corps bases and the Internal Revenue Service.

The VITA program provides free electronic tax preparation and filing at all Marine Corps installations. Last year's program saw a 29 percent increase over the year before, saving Marines more than \$5 million, according to a White Letter issued in December by Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak. His goal this year: File electronic tax returns for 50 percent of the active duty force at every Marine Corps installation. "It is a quality of life program with recognizable benefits," he said.

Hale said tax preparation and electronic filing is free Corps-wide to anyone entitled to legal assistance. "The 1040EZ takes about 10 minutes to prepare and the refund is deposited within 10 days," Hale said.

Commercial preparers could charge Marines \$50 for the same process.

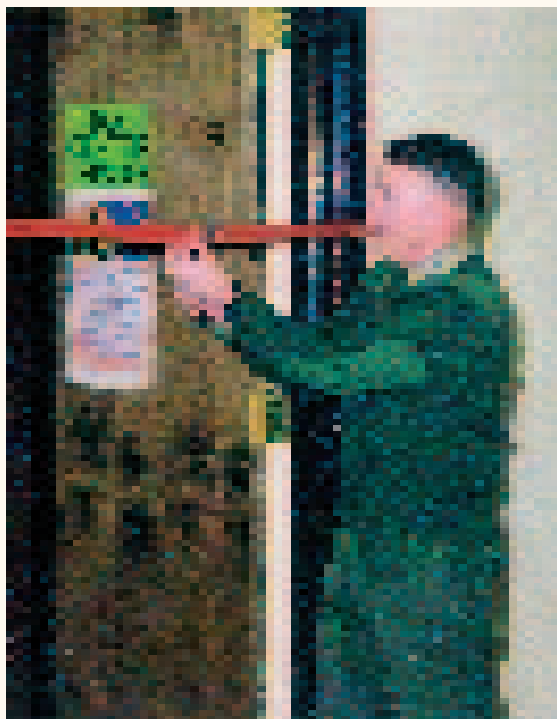
Staffed by IRS-trained volunteers, the VITA tax centers are armed with federal forms, as well as materials for most states.

The filing software company provides further training so tax center volunteers know their way around both the paper and electronic venues.

"Most centers have an experienced person who is able to handle the harder forms," Hale said.

"A married Marine with a mortgage and mutual funds is considered a normal return."

—Staff Sgt. Eric C. Tausch



Cpl. Jennifer Kenefick

**Commandant of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulak cuts the ribbon during opening ceremonies at Headquarters Marine Corps' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office February 3. The Commandant's goal for this year's VITA program is to assist at least 50 percent of the active force to electronically file their 1997 taxes.**

## The Right Quality of Life

"Programs designed to improve and sustain the quality of Marine Corps life are an important part of the Corps' warfighting strategy," said Lt. Gen. Carol A. Mutter as she explained the mission of the new Personnel and Family Readiness Division.

The new division results from the Jan. 20 merger of the Manpower Department's Human Resources Division and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Support Activity. By combining the two organizations that are responsible for delivering the majority of quality of life programs and creating one new division, the Corps can provide better recreational opportunities, family support, and other quality of life services to Marines and their families.

The mission of the new division is to improve unit, individual, and family readiness by enhancing quality of life for Marines, Sailors, civilian Marines, and

families. The division will incorporate most functions that were previously provided by the Human Resources Division and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Support Activity, including exchanges, recreation, clubs and food activities, fitness and wellness, problem reduction and prevention, voluntary education, and child care programs. Those functions that will not be incorporated into the new division have been reassigned to other Headquarters Marine Corps agencies.

"As the Marine Corps gets ready to enter the 21st century, the quality of the force is of paramount importance to success," said Mutter, who is the deputy chief of staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. "This new organization demonstrates Marine Corps recognition that quality of life programs are a key element of the readiness equation."

The merger enhances Headquarters Marine Corps' ability to provide commanders with consistent policies and appropriate resources. The merger will also strengthen the way the division delivers programs and services to Marines and family members. For example, many programs will focus on problem prevention — preventing problems before they occur.

The merger will be phased in over several months and is expected to be completed by the time the new Manpower Department building opens this fall at Quantico, Va.

As phases of the merger are completed, new mailing addresses, phone numbers, and information pertaining to modified procedures will be announced.

Meanwhile, current procedures and previously published phone numbers for both former divisions remain in effect.

—Staff Sgt. Linda D. Philipp

## Women In The Corps 1974-Present

**1974** - Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. (CMC) approved a change in policy permitting the assignment of women to specified rear echelon elements of the Fleet Marine Force, but they could not be deployed with assault units or units likely to become engaged in combat.

**1975** - The Marine Corps approved the assignment of women to all occupational fields except infantry, artillery, armor, engineers and pilot/air crew.

**June 30, 1977** - The Office of the Director of Women Marines was disestablished.

**May 11, 1978** - Col. Margaret A. Brewer was appointed to a general officer's billet as Director of Information, with the rank of brigadier general, thereby becoming the first woman general officer in the history of the Marine Corps.

**Feb. 1985** - Col. Gail M. Reals became the first woman selected by a board of general officers to be advanced to brigadier general.

**1990-1991** - Approximately 1,000 female Marines deployed to Southwest Asia for Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

**June 1992** - Brig. Gen. Carol A. Mutter assumed command of the 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, becoming the first woman to command a Fleet Marine Force unit at the flag level.

**July 23, 1993** - 2nd Lt. Sarah Deal became the first woman Marine selected for Naval aviation training. She received her wings on April 21, 1995, and went on to pilot the CH-53E Super Stallion.

**June 1994** - Brig. Gen. Mutter became the first woman major general in the Marine Corps and the senior woman on active duty in the armed services.

**Oct. 1, 1994** - Restrictions on women's assignments were reduced; only units in which their primary mission is to engage in direct combat on the ground are women forbidden.

**July 1996** - Maj. Gen. Mutter became the first female Marine to wear three stars.

—Capt. Carolyn C. Dysart, HQMC (MPE)

# Around the Corps

## Georgia

**MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY** — They arrive here battered and broken. They've been subjected to the rigors of corrosive seas, the desert's heat and sand, and the numbing cold of winter-clad mountains.

Perhaps they were last in the hands of seasoned warriors who knew every intricate detail about them. Or they could

have been gingerly handled by teenage recruits still awed by their power and range.

These are veterans — the weapons of Marines — rifles and pistols about to get a new lease on life from Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany's Small Arms Product Team.

"The SAPT performs 5th echelon maintenance (the highest, most comprehensive level of repair) on Marine Corps weapons," said retired Master Sgt. Richard Moore, a small arms repairman. Most of the weapons require complete rebuilding, he said.

Batches of weapons arriving at SAPT — 40 M16-A2 service rifles, for example — are processed in an assembly line. First, they are completely disassembled for parts inspection. The barrels and bolts are then measured with three different gauges and all springs are replaced. Next comes refinishing, and then more measuring and calibrating.

The final part of the repair process

may be the most fun — test firing.

In addition to a shotgun and pistol facility, a 100-meter tunnel is used to test weapons firing 5.56 mm and 7.62 mm ammunition, Moore explained. It is equipped with a target site video camera and a firing point viewing monitor.

To pass this test, an M-16 must fire 10 rounds from a distance of 100 meters into a 4.8-inch diameter circle. Weapons that fail the test are returned to SAPT for further maintenance.

Most of the weapons repaired at SAPT belong to the Marine Corps, said Moore, but the Army, Navy, and Air Force also send weapons for repair.

In addition to 5th echelon maintenance, SAPT also performs 3rd echelon maintenance for Albany's military police and local reserve units.

This level of repair involves less complicated maintenance and consists of lower receiver repairs, changing barrels, and replacing bolts.

—Cpl. Jonathan Moore

Cpl. Jonathan Moore



**A worker repairs an M-16A2 service rifle at MCLB Albany's Small Arms Product Team facility, where 5th echelon maintenance is performed on Marine Corps weapons.**

## Virginia

# History For The Future

**Widow makes historic donation to the Corps.**

**HENDERSON HALL, Arlington** — One of the first African Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps was remembered during Henderson Hall's annual Black History Month Celebration.

Sergeant Major Edgar R. Huff's widow, Beulah, along with son Edgar II and grandson Edgar III, attended the celebration and donated pictures and other memorabilia to the Marine Corps.

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Richard I. Neal accepted Mrs. Huff's donations on behalf of the commandant.

Included were some of her husbands' most valued possessions, including his prized walking stick. The walking stick has 20 copper rings engraved with the battles and operations in which Huff participated.

Also donated were his M-1 helmet and "smokey" from his years as a drill instructor at Montford Point.

Huff, the first black sergeant major in the Marine Corps, passed away in May 1994. He was the first black Marine to retire with 30 years of regular service in the Marine Corps.

In 1942, after Executive Order 8802 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which allowed blacks to be recruited, Huff was one of the first to enlist.

He was trained at Montford Point, N.C., and served with the 51st Composite Defense Battalion. He later returned to Montford Point as a drill instructor.

According to Jennifer Castro, registrar, Marine Corps History and Museums Division, some of the items are being prepared for a display to be located

in the African American Corridor at the Pentagon.

This display will be a part of a larger DoD African American exhibit that is scheduled to open in August.

The rest of the items will be available for viewing at the Marine Corps Historical Center in its "Time Tunnel."

—Sgt. Deborah A. Drake

Sgt. Deborah A. Drake



**Beulah Huff stands next to a picture of her husband, Sgt. Maj. Edgar R. Huff, with Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Richard I. Neal.**



## Hawaii

**CAMP H.M. SMITH** — World War II veterans from the 2nd and 5th Marine Divisions and the V Amphibious Corps Artillery will be honored March 27-28 at the Camp Tarawa Monument Dedication on Parker Ranch on the Big Island of Hawaii.

The commemorative ceremony will also honor the late Richard Smart, owner of Parker Ranch during the war, and the residents of Kamuela, who played host to more than 50,000 Marines from 1942-1945.

Camp Tarawa was once the largest Marine training camp in the Pacific, following the return of the 2nd Marine Division from the amphibious assault on Betio in the Tarawa Atoll. Later, the 5th Marine Division arrived at the camp to prepare for the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The new monument, honoring Camp Tarawa, is at the site of the camp on the ranch, and consists of three massive black granite slabs set in a small park behind the existing, but smaller, monument.

The right marker honors the heroic Marines and Navy Corpsman of the 5th Marine Division. It depicts the history of the division, from training at Camp Tarawa, to the bloody battle of Iwo Jima, through occupation duty in Japan.

The left marker highlights the heroism of the 2nd Marine Division, from the battle of Tarawa, to training at Camp Tarawa, and their departure for Saipan.

The center marker highlights the V Amphibious Corps Artillery at Camp Tarawa.

"We hope every veteran who served at Camp Tarawa will return here for the dedication," said Alice Clark, event organizer and chairperson on the board of directors for the Camp Tarawa Historical Foundation.

"These men are true American heroes ... we owe it to them to record their history and to teach our future generations of their sacrifices and achievements," she said.

"Their story is too great to be forgotten."

—Cpl. Melinda Weathers



Artist drawing of the proposed Camp Tarawa Monument in Kamuela, Hawaii, which is scheduled to be dedicated on March 28.

## Japan

### MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

**IWAKUNI** — The R.G. Robinson Dining Facility here took first place in the Captain Edward F. Ney/Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Awards Program. The awards are presented annually to Navy and Marine Corps dining facilities for excellence in the food service field.

Chow halls aboard the air station serve 1,800 to 2,000 meals per day. While meeting the required quantity is one of the most important aspects of the service, quality in nutrition and taste rank high with patrons.

Corporal Dominick L. Warner, 24, Marine Wing Support Squadron-171, is a heavy equipment operator from East Tawas, Mich. He said that in his three years in the Marine Corps he's eaten in many chow halls, but this one is the best.

Lance Cpl. Alan R. Spoerl, a cook from Sussex, N.J., said that in food service, as in other jobs throughout the Corps, there's a level of stress associated with superior performance. Having the Ney/Hill inspection team here made all of the cooks realize the importance of their jobs.

Spoerl said coming from a small town added to his sense of accomplishment. "When you come from a small town you're never the top at anything. Someone always outdoes you. But, while

working the grill, after the announcement was made, it came to me. 'I wonder if any of these people know this is the number one mess hall in the Marine Corps.'"

The cooks had to compete against one mess hall from each of the 13 other Marine Corps bases worldwide. Mess hall manager Master Sgt. Edward Trevino of Carson, Calif., said the inspectors looked at each of the many aspects of running a dining facility — from food preparation to administration. Mess hall management can be a complicated process.

"The key to winning was the fundamentals ... following the recipe cards, proper sanitation procedures, and keeping the costs low. If you do that, you have a sound operation," he said.

—Lance Cpl. Beck Pridemore

## North Carolina

### MARINE CORPS AIR STATION

**CHERRY POINT** — One hundred thirty seven Marines and Navy Corpsmen from Camp Lejeune, N.C., passed through the Aerial Port of Embarkation at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Feb. 10 on their way to Haiti in support of humanitarian operation New Horizon.

"We're going down to provide security for the United States support

# Around the Corps

group in Haiti, which is currently providing humanitarian and civil assistance missions," said Capt. William M. Journey, company commander. "We're going to continue the security mission for approximately three months, at which time we will be replaced by an Army unit."

The company returned from a six-month deployment to Okinawa, Japan, in December, according to Journey and began extensive pre-deployment training in January to prepare for their new mission.

"Our training included security operations, operations in urban terrain, civil disturbance, riot control, and less-than-lethal weapons deployment," Journey explained.

The Marines will provide 24-hour security to the two main camps where the U.S. support group is living and storing its engineering equipment.

"They have a number of off-site projects where they're digging wells, building bridges, fixing roads, and providing medical assistance to folks out in town, so we provide off-site security for those," Journey said. "We are also maintaining quick reaction force capability and whatever else the mission entails."

"I'm looking forward to going to Haiti," said Cpl. Jonathan M. Harness, a field wireman from Huntsville, Tenn. "I don't like sitting around here in the States. I like being off doing things."

—Sgt. Dan Price

## District of Columbia

**WASHINGTON** — In a high-tech world where nearly half of all teens in grades seven through 12 use a computer daily, how does a premier fighting force advertise the opportunities available to young men and women?

They improve access to recruiters via the world wide web and offer an interactive CD-ROM to high school seniors.

Marine Corps Re-



**Marines from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, depart MCAS Cherry Point for Haiti to provide security for an ongoing humanitarian operation.**

cruiting Command's new website, *Marines.com*, went live Jan. 9, according to Capt. David Kramer, deputy assistant chief of staff for advertising.

"We've come a long way since first coming onto the world wide web in October 1994. Changes in recruiting philosophy on this new media redirected us from being an information site to a lead generation site," Kramer said.

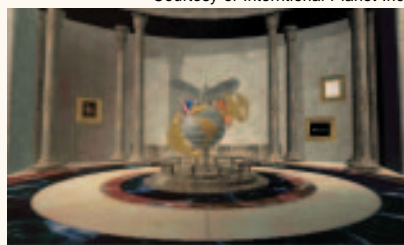
"Another big shift was the acquisition of the address *Marines.com*. This easy-to-remember and easy-to-advertise address will go a long way in directing traffic to our site."

"The advertising office and the Marine Corps Recruiting Command's current contract advertising agency, J. Walter Thompson, developed the site for both the officer and enlisted prospects," said Kramer. "It offers us unparalleled access to homes, libraries, schools, and

offices, improving our ability to reach our target market and generate leads for recruiters."

The site begins with an introduction to Marine Corps discipline and courtesy. Once a visitor logs on to the site, they will be told

Courtesy of International Planet Inc.



**A three-dimensional Eagle, Globe and Anchor awaits visitors to the Heritage Hall at Camp Marine.**

## 13TH MEU Two Cousins, One Service

**ABOARD THE USS PELELIU** — Corporal Terrence Jackson and 1st Lt. Percy Moore have more in common than most of their fellow Marines and Sailors of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable).

Jackson, 20, from Houston, is an assistant Avenger gunner, Light Anti-Air Defense detachment, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-164. Moore, 27, from Silver Spring, Md., is the commander of Combined Anti-Armor Team Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/1.

The two Marines are also cousins.

Their Marine Corps careers began separately, with Moore enlisting in 1988 and Jackson in 1995. But when Moore, a reservist at the time, returned from Operation Desert Storm and enrolled in college to pursue a commission, their paths began to cross.

"I was commissioned Dec. 15, 1995, the same day he graduated from

to climb a mountain. After completing the climb, they can fill out a request form to receive information from a Marine recruiter.

"We collect prospects' contact information as well as their age and current education status," Kramer said. "This enables us to electronically sort for leads which are then provided to recruiters. Using the QuickLeads priority prospect card system enables the leads to reach recruiters or officer selection officers in 24 hours."

The site address will be inserted in all future Marine Corps advertisements including radio, billboards, magazines, and pamphlets, he added.

What is hoped to become another high-tech lead generator is "Camp Marine."

The "Camp" is an interactive CD-ROM, that is being offered as an alternate fulfillment item to high school



boot camp in San Diego," Moore said.

It seemed that the coincidences might end there. But it wasn't long before Jackson reported to the 3rd Light Anti-Air Defense Battalion at Camp Pendleton, where he crossed paths with his cousin again. "He was checking in at Camp Horno and I ran into him. It was a surprise ... I didn't know he'd be stationed here," he said.

Although the cousins are stationed at Camp Pendleton, neither knew the other was deploying with the 13th MEU(SOC). One day, during pre-deployment training in the hangar bay of the *USS Peleliu*, the two men both got a surprise. "I looked over to my gunny and said, 'That looks like my cousin.' I didn't believe it, but it was him," Moore said.

"Needless to say, our grandmother and his mother were pleasantly surprised because I could watch out for him now," Moore said.

Moore has used the deployment to take his cousin under his wing and teach him more about the Marine Corps from his experiences in combat and his current duties as an infantry officer.

During Exercise Eager Mace in



Cpl. Terrence Jackson (right) and his cousin, 1st Lt. Percy Moore.

Kuwait, Moore arranged for CAAT Plt. and the LAAD detachment to conduct cross-training on one of the ranges at

Udairi. "I planned this training so he could see the grunt way of life," Moore said.

Moore has also been encouraging his cousin to follow in his footsteps and pursue a commission. "He's doing the right thing with his life and I want to help him," he said.

Having family nearby occasionally helps the two related Marines deal better with the stress of deployed life. But having family around can also be a pressure in itself. "It keeps me on my toes knowing he's watching me. There is a lot of pressure to do the right thing all the time," Moore said.

Jackson said he feels the pressure, too, especially from his cousin. "He doesn't treat me any differently than any other Marine. If anything, he's harder on me. He expects more because we're family."

The relationship they have presents some obstacles because of the difference in rank. "I think it puts him in an awkward position sometimes. Off the playing field, we're family first. I told him never to forget that," Moore said.

seniors this year, according to Capt. Tim Koch, paid media and direct mail officer.

"The CD is a new, interactive way for prospective future Marines to get information about the Corps prior to contact with a recruiter," Koch said.

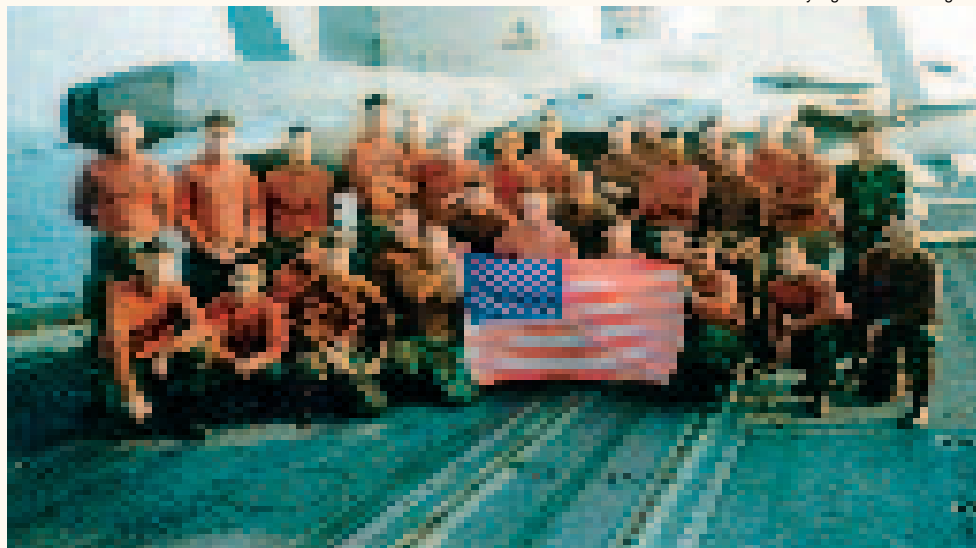
"The prospect can access a wealth of information with the CD — information on military occupational specialties, Marine Corps history, benefits, and the Commandant's Reading List."

A prospect who enters the recruiting station with that sort of knowledge definitely helps the recruiter, said Staff Sgt. Eric Evans, a recruiter in Newark, Del.

Recruiters will be receiving their own copies of the CD-ROM and a training manual," Koch said, "so they can become familiar with Camp Marine."

—Sgt. Jay Lamborn

Gunnery Sgt. Robert J. Organo



Members of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314's Powerline Division take a short break from their duties in support of Operation Southern Watch in the Persian Gulf. The squadron has been deployed with the *USS Nimitz* since October 1997 and is scheduled to return home this month. The Powerline Division performs aviation maintenance and flight deck support for the F/A-18 Hornet squadron, homebased at MCAS Miramar, Calif.

# Welcome to Panama

Leaving their civilian jobs behind, reserve Marines of the 25th Marine Regiment deploy to this Central American country to guard American lives and property.

**By Sgt. Dave Johnson**  
MarForRes, New Orleans

**T**hey descended from the hills of New England, the mountains of West Virginia, and the cities and towns of Ohio and New York. Professors, plumbers, students, and police officers took leave from civilian jobs and donned the camouflage of Marine riflemen to safeguard one of the world's most important maritime passages — the Panama Canal.

Company M, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, a provisional reinforced company of Marine reservists, deployed to Panama last June, becoming the first reserve unit to take on the Marine Corps' Panama security mission in support of the U.S. Southern Command.

Normally manned by an active-duty company from II Marine Expeditionary Force, this deployment was one of the most significant undertakings to date by Marine Forces Reserve to provide operational-tempo relief to active-duty forces. A true test of the seamless integration of active and reserve forces into a single, cohesive total force, these reservists served in the crucible of Panama until they were replaced by an active-duty infantry company.

Deployment of reservists will continue with reinforced companies from the 23rd and 24th Marine Regiments,

until the canal comes under full Panamanian control in 1999.

According to Maj. Brennan T. Byrne, mission commander, the Marines' role was "to act as a general purpose reaction force for the commander in chief, Southern Command, in order to assure full exercise of rights guaranteed the United States by the Panama Canal Treaty."



They also provided security for the Marine Barracks at Rodman Naval Station and received training in jungle warfare, heliborne and riverine operations, and riot control.

According to Maj. Gen. Ray Smith, who was then the deputy commanding general of II MEF, the deployment offered great opportunities for both the reserves and the Marine Corps as a whole.

"It reinforces the total force commitment of the reserves," he said.

At the same time, the active component gains more than just op-tempo relief. "It gives the active-duty Marines here a good feeling about their reserve counterparts," said Smith. "It sends a signal to CINCSOUTH, his staff, and to our allies in South America that the United States Marine Corps — the total force Marine Corps — is committed to whatever needs to be done; that, one way or another, we'll find a way to meet every commitment, and we'll meet that commitment with good Marines, well-trained and ready to go."

According to Smith, the all-volunteer company was "a better manned ... company than anything we've sent out of here, except for the Marine Expeditionary Units, in the time I've been here."

The reinforced composite company formed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., where the reservists were mobilized and processed to active duty. In six fast-paced days, they received administrative, medical and dental screenings, and numerous classes on topics ranging from rules of engagement to threat level assessment.

At the same time, the readiness and cohesion of the unit was tested prior to deployment. The Marines, who came from several different companies within the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 25th

Marines, zeroed weapons, practiced weapons handling and small unit tactics, and worked on combat target shooting.

The training concentrated on integrating Marines from several units into one cohesive, reinforced infantry company. The ease with which the company came together was surprising.

"They blended so well that some of the unique challenges that I thought I was going to have to face did not materialize," said Capt. Bryce Riedasch, company commander. "It's almost as if they lived a life together somewhere before."

After the second day of training, Staff Sgt. Sean Walker, platoon sergeant, 2nd Platoon, agreed. "It seems like we've been together for weeks."

One of the keys to the unit's cohesion was the all-volunteer nature of the company, said Cpl. Mike Georgoulis, a six-year veteran of the Danbury, Conn., Police Department. "Everyone in this company is here because they want to be here. The level of motivation is outstanding."

According to Riedasch, the diverse nature of the composite company of reservists actually helped prepare them for their mission.

"We had a huge pool of talent to draw from," he said, referring to Marines throughout the company whose professions include everything from carpenters to law enforcement officers to doctoral students. "They're very well-rounded as far as overall skills ... everybody cross-trained everybody."

Riedasch said the Marines were "looking forward to proving themselves, showing some of the unique talents that the reserves can bring to an active-duty deployment like this."

Georgoulis, a classic example of the application of cross-training, proved to be an in-house asset as an instructor in several law enforcement skills, including riot control, use of the baton and pepper spray, takedowns, and detention. He helped the company refine these skills as part of riot contingency training. The team leader for 2nd Platoon believes his civilian experience lends authenticity to the training he provides.

"The best man for the job gets the job, so the training is going to have a bit more focus and a little more meaning coming from someone who has been there and done it," he said.

During the actual deployment, the Marines stayed busy with training opportunities not often available to reserve units.

In July, the company went to the Army's Jungle Operations Training Center at Fort Sherman, Panama. They also acted as aggressors against a Florida Army National Guard battalion training in Panama.

Also during July, 3rd Platoon redeployed to Punta Arenas, Chile, near the southern tip of South America. While

they conducted cold-weather training with the Chilean Marine Corps, a unit of Chilean Marines trained at Camp Lejeune as part of an international military exchange program.

In addition to providing relief to operationally burdened active units, these types of deployments increase proficiency in the Marine Corps Reserve.

"These Marines received the equivalent of six years of annual training during the deployment," Byrne said. "Their leadership, their combat skills,

Sgt. Dave Johnson



**Staff Sgt. Sean Walker charges into a room during MOUT training as Sgt. Thomas Vitagliano covers him.**



their preparation for what ... may be required ... in a combat situation came to a fine point.

"Each one of these Marines goes back and takes to his company an increased sense of pride, professionalism, and knowledge. The combination of preparing to deal with a regional contingency, live-fire training, and participation in exercises, all build skill and confidence to a degree that allows (Marines) to go back and diffuse that throughout their sections, fire teams, squads, or platoons," said Byrne.

The provisional company was disbanded at Camp Lejeune exactly three months after arriving in Panama. The nature of the mission and its legacy were not lost, however, on the Marines — pioneers of a new era of reserve participation in the total force.

"The Marines always had a sense of purpose and a sense of the historical significance of what they were going to do in Panama," said Byrne. "They proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that the concept of compositing infantry units out of the Marine Reserve for these types of deployments is a viable concept." □



**Sgt. Christopher Demanski relays orders to his squad after contact with the enemy during exercises at the Jungle Operations Training Center.**

Sgt. Dave Johnson



**Marines from Company M train at JOTC, Fort Sherman, Panama. In addition to river crossings (above), the Marines conducted capsizing drills and practiced the use of flotation devices.**



# Zapping the Y2K Bug

The Corps calls in the exterminators to help Marines spray for bugs in what the computer industry calls the "Year 2000 Problem."

**Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce Jr.**  
HQMC, Washington

**T**he Marine Corps has followed suit with the Department of the Navy in a Defense Department push to solve what has been dubbed the "Year 2000 Problem."

The Marine Corps Year 2000 Action Team is managing the Corps' front lines on what some officials think could be a rocky start to the 21st century.

The problem, according to 2nd Lt. Michael D. Dunbar, is a potential failure of information technology. Dunbar is a Y2K action officer at the team headquarters MCB Quantico, Va.

The root of the problem is the widespread practice of using two digits instead of four to represent the year in computer databases. This will cause them to roll over to the year 1900 instead of 2000 at the turn of the century.

If the problem is left unsolved, officials agree on the prediction that it could impact nearly every facet of American life and the lives of millions of people around the world.

Dunbar cited computer-controlled equipment such as waste and water treatment plants, elevators, and traffic systems as potential candidates for interrupted operations. "What we're talking about here is the possibility of ... DoD and civilian computer databases possibly shutting down or computing the wrong information," he said.

The problem is traced back to the early 1980s, when computer size and memory space considerations took center stage in the booming computer industry. According to Dunbar, one way programmers conserved memory space was by placing a permanent date code in the

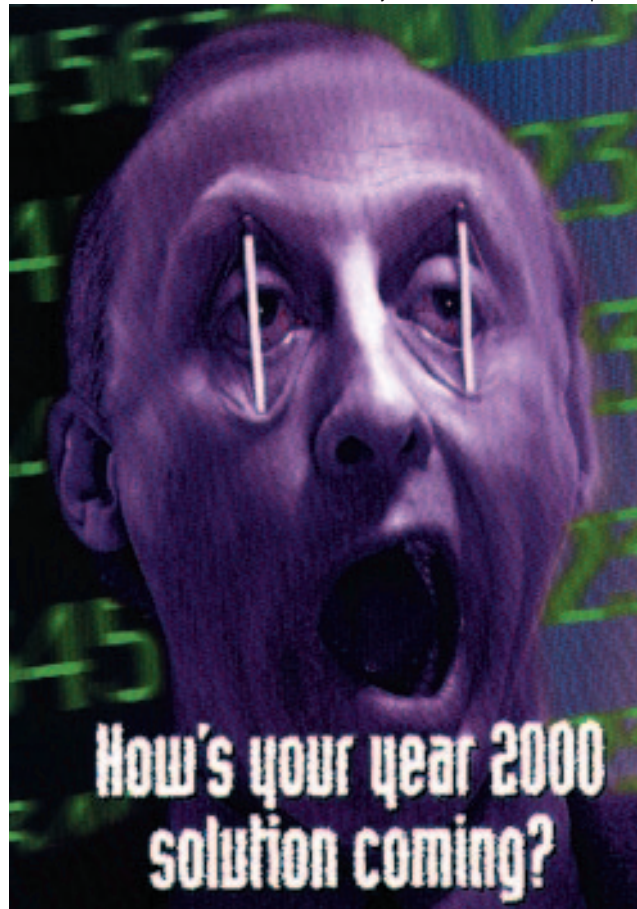
computers memory.

In simpler terms, the "19" in a date code of 1998 became an unchanging portion of the computers memory.

As the clock continues to count down toward the turn of the century, the action team is doing more than finding solutions to the problem. It is also focusing on education. More than 10 ALMAR messages have been released from Headquarters Marine Corps to advise Marines and their families about what the Marine Corps is doing and what individual Marines need to do to protect themselves.

According to Master Sgt. Virginia A. Rowan, plans and policies branch chief for the Y2K action team, individual protective measures are the key to personal security and stability.

Courtesy of ALYDAAR Software Corporation



"The reality of this whole thing is that there could still be problems after a solution is found and implemented," said Rowan. "There is still the element of human error and the unseen factors that will have to be judged at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1st, 2000."

Service members must take action by copying personal records relating to pay, birth certificates, home loan contracts, payment receipts, and medical and service records, according to Gunnery Sgt. Jeffrey A. Mahalak, a Y2K action team coordinator.

In addition to safeguarding personal records, people should prepare for possible interruptions in meeting their day-to-day needs such as groceries, gasoline, and electric power. Home devices such as answering machines, which have date/time features, could also be affected.

One area of considerable concern is the impact on finances. "People may not realize the severity of the situation when it comes down to pay matters, withdrawing money from an automated-teller machine, or 30-year home loans rolling over, stating no payments have been made," said Mahalak. "Things we use everyday could be affected and it is inevitable that some people will be caught off guard."

According to Mahalak, the Y2K Action Team is working to curb many of the possible pitfalls service members could find themselves facing at the turn of the century, but it is still the duty of the individual to be prepared.

For more information on the Year 2000 Problem or the activities of the Marine Corps' Y2K Action Team, visit their worldwide web site at: [issb-www1.mqg.usmc.mil/year2000](http://issb-www1.mqg.usmc.mil/year2000). □

# Meeting of the Mines

Marines from Camp Lejeune learn basic mine demolition, recognition, and confidence when working with these dangerous weapons.

**By Sgt. J.J. Rodriguez**  
MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**T**here are 10 million loose land mines in Iraq, three to six million in Bosnia, and possibly a million in Somalia.

Most were put there by warring factions, but the victims are usually innocents, not the combatants the mines were intended for originally.

These mines do pose a threat to deployed Marines and other Americans. To prepare for this hidden danger, Camp

Lejeune Marines routinely work at Engineer Training Area 3.

"The range is designed to provide Marine Corps units with engineer training in counter mines, military explosives and demolitions, advanced demolition, land mine warfare, field

Sgt. J.J. Rodriguez



Infantry Marines from MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C., are taught by the numbers how to set up an explosive charge.



fortification, engineer reconnaissance, rigging, night infiltration, and land navigation," said Gunnery Sgt. Bertram Nickles, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the range.

Nickles and his instructors also cover bridging and mine detection using electrical detection devices.

The one thing Marines need when they leave the range is confidence, according to Nickles.

"You have to have confidence in your abilities to set a mine," he said. "There is no room for mistakes. There is no second chance. If you don't have confidence, you're going to make a mistake and get somebody killed."

Demolition, however, is not the only skill Marines learn at the range. In the two-day land mine warfare package, instructors cover all conventional U.S. land mines, firing devices, and hasty protective mining procedures.

In mine/countermine operations, students learn to recognize foreign mines, use booby traps and improvised munitions in low-intensity conflicts, and assume personnel protective measures. The emphasis here is on detection and clearing.

"They're actually getting hands-on training with the Yugoslavian mines," said Nickles.

One of the most widely applicable sessions is the field fortification class. This two-day package covers individual and crew-served fighting positions, overhead cover, revetting techniques, and construction procedures for wire entanglements, anti-tank obstacles, and fighting bunkers.

"The course is used by infantry and combat engineers for the most part," said Nickles, "but military police can use this training to set up POW camps as well."

An engineer reconnaissance course covers recon missions that the division might request of combat engineers. Marines learn gathering techniques, information that is required for each mission, and how to correctly recon routes and bridges.

The night infiltration course pits Marines against log post obstacles and trenches, all thoroughly booby trapped with flash bangs, flares, and CS grenades. Each unit has three hours to complete the course.

The three main engineer goals are



**A 'water shot' explosion, consisting of more than 20 pounds of TNT, sends water flying 90 feet into the air. These charges could be used to clear possible water crossing points.**

mobility, countermobility, and survivability, said Nickles.

Survivability is essential.

The instructors handle explosives almost every day but most importantly, they work around Marines who don't. They have to count on the teachings they give each student to keep them alive.

"You have to have the right frame of

mind to be an instructor," said Sgt. Charles Yannizzi, range instructor.

"They are nervous and shaky at first," he said. "We have to relax them."

Once the Marines relax, encounters with some of those "millions of loose mines," will be far less dangerous, thanks largely to the training they received at the ETA. □

# Straight Talk

Marines tackle the challenges of high-tech communications for the 21st century battlefield.

**Cpl. Jeff Hawk,**  
Special to Marines

**H**ad Pfc. Elijah Massingale reported for military communications training in 1932, he may have trained with pigeons. But this is 1998, and the 19-year-old basic electronics student from Virginia Beach, Va., is attending the Marine Corps Communications-Electronics School at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. He is not only learning how to operate and maintain sophisticated communications and electronics equipment, he is also being trained by it.

From humble beginnings as “The Pigeon and Flag Handler Platoon,” MCCES has evolved into the Corps’ largest formal school, graduating nearly 6,000 students a year in 51 military occupational specialties. Every Marine Corps unit above the squad level possesses MCCES graduates.

The school’s seemingly daunting task is to take Marines like Massingale — who arrive with little or no formal electronics training — and teach them how to communicate in a field characterized by ever-changing technology.

“Technology is being integrated into every aspect of our military occupational specialties,” said Col. Charles E. Cooke,

Cpl. Jeff Hawk





Field radio operator students assemble the top mast of an OE-254 SINCGARS radio antenna during a field exercise.





**Pfc. Adam Ayriss, 18, an aviation support operations student, writes on the rotary wing plotting board during an exercise in a Direct Air Support Center.**

Cpl. Jeff Hawk

MCCES commanding officer. "But we're not getting away from the real focus on the human aspect because it is going to be the individual Marine who is going to fight and win on the battlefield."

Cooke said the school strives to use technology to complement training programs rather than replace the human element.

To keep up with the needs of the fleet, the school actively solicits input from Fleet Marine Force units through an evaluation program, explained Cooke. It also sends instructors and occasionally, students, to participate in combined arms exercises and major joint military events to stay current.

"The driving factor for us at this school is the needs of the FMF," said Cooke. "They tell us what they need and we train to the standards that they want our students to have."

The school's formal mission is to train Marines in one of four areas: communications-electronics maintenance, operational communications, air control/anti-air warfare operations, and computer programming and networking. Courses run from two to 47 weeks, depending on the area of specialization. By the time some graduates hit the fleet, they've spent a year at MCCES.

Through technology, the school is successfully shortening while improving its courses. Most notable is the example set by the Maintenance School, which is

not only the largest company in MCCES, but also the largest company in the Corps.

Suspecting that today's technology can help them teach more efficiently and effectively, instructors scoured the civilian market to find software that would cover the Basic Electronics Course curriculum — a course every maintainer must complete. They found it in an electronics tutorial program called FACET — Fault Assisted Circuits for Electronics Training.

While still training students through conventional lecture and lab methods, MCCES purchased nine automated circuit boards and began phasing FACET into the classroom in September 1997.

"It's created fairly drastic changes," said Capt. Daryll Fulford, the Maintenance School's deputy director. "We're reducing the length of training in BEC by 10 days, retention is much higher, and the students can apply what they've learned immediately."

There are other big advantages, according to Gunnery Sgt. Mike Rasmus, a BEC instructor instrumental in acquiring the interactive software. FACET students work on the same type of circuit boards they will see in the fleet, and they can troubleshoot as they learn the basics of electronics.

The computer injects faults that students must discover and correct before moving on.

"We never had time to teach troubleshooting before," says Rasmus. "We left that to their next course."

Marines like Massingale are sold on the new training aid.

"I thought this would be way over my head," he said, "but when I saw how well laid out the circuit board is, it was a lot simpler than I thought."

Twenty-one-year-old Long Island, N.Y., native Lance Cpl. Lori Patterson, who attended both the conventional and the upgraded courses, says that FACET allowed her to work at her own pace while gaining hands-on experience.

"Instead of getting to the fleet and

Cpl. Jeff Hawk



**The hands of Pfc. Jason Hughes operate an automated circuit board that is part of a new computer-assisted learning tool used by the MCCES Maintenance School.**



**Privates First Class Elizabeth Ruiz and Paulo Felizardo measure resistance on an operational amplifier board in a conventional Maintenance School classroom. The conventional classrooms are being replaced by computer automated software.**

applying what we learn, we apply it right here,” explained Patterson’s BEC classmate, Pfc. Jeff Dykes, 22, from Greeneville, Tenn.

New communications technology also drives the direction some courses are taking to teach consolidated occupational specialties.

At the MCCES’s Air Schools, where officers and enlisted Marines attend air support and air defense courses, the impending acquisition of a common aviation command and control system promises to bring the two fields together.

“Right now, because the air support and air defense systems are so different, the equipment drives the specialization,” said Maj. Michael Kibler, Air School’s commanding officer. “But there’s a lot in common between the two fields. We want to have a single command and control unit for air defense and air support. We want to get the same communi-

Cpl. Jeff Hawk



**Lance Cpl. Newton Tilson, a radio repair technician, troubleshoots a MRC-138 radio in the MCCES Maintenance School's War Room during the last phase of his training.**

cations equipment for both so that everything will have the same look and touch.”

Once trained on the common system, officers can alternate between air defense and air support duties. The enlisted crews they work with in the classroom and in the fleet will gain the same appreciation for both fields. Kibler says the school is currently cross-training Marines in both air defense and support in anticipation of the emerging technology.

Like the Air Schools, the Computer Programming and Networking School is also forecasting the continuing merge with communications. Master Gunnery Sgt. Mary Cone, operations chief for the computer school, believes the impetus for moving more than half of the Corps’ computer training assets to the high desert from the East Coast last year was due to the

**Pfc. Darnell Baloney (foreground) and his classmate, Pfc. Varick Rainey, practice sending and receiving messages over a SINCGARS radio.**



Cpl. Jeff Hawk



growing interdependence between network data processing and communications.

"We're a reflection of what's happening in the civilian world," says Cone. "We have to work together because everything is becoming computer-driven."

She cites the example of a Marine regimental command unit that went to the field with only one small systems specialist and two communicators. When the regimental commander approached Cone regarding his concern about limited computer-savvy manpower, she provided his communicators with small systems training materials that they absorbed through reading and on-the-job training.

"They were able to assist the small systems Marine," she said. "It happens all the time. We play together in the field, so it's important that we play here, too."

The rest of the Corps' computer training assets are scheduled to make the move to MCAGCC this summer.

Also changing the face of the Corps' network computer training is the arrival of the Tactical Data Network and Digital Technical Control prototypes. This system is a mobile communications package mounted on a Humvee that can drive up, park, plug into any communications asset, and provide full network data processing, voice, and video capabilities, said Staff Sgt. Theodore Baker.

"The goal is to get information to the commander," said Baker, an Advanced Networking Techniques Course instructor.

This streamlined systems package contains several components that were traditionally housed separately.

Trained at the highest level of their MOS, the school's graduates will have the necessary skills and equipment to bring the tactical Internet to the battlefield.

With the steady emergence of new technology, it may seem the individual field radio operator could become obsolete.

But Sgt. Chad Love, a field radio operator instructor, says students trained on SINCGARS (single channel ground airborne radio systems) and other upgraded field communications gear are providing more capability to units at the tip of the spear.

"Units in the fleet tell us that these Marines are using the SINCGARS from the moment they check in, and that they are helping to teach their fellow Marines on the gear," said Love.

"Motivated Marines win battles, not a radio, a radar, or a computer," said Cooke.

"Technology has been loaded in to make that Marine sharper when he goes out to the fleet, so he can reach into his tool box and improve his ability to fight and defeat the enemy."

While the days of the pigeon handler are long gone, the individual Marine armed with MCCES training and an array of technology poses an increasingly formidable threat to enemies who might challenge the Corps by "talking back." □

Cpl. Jeff Hawk



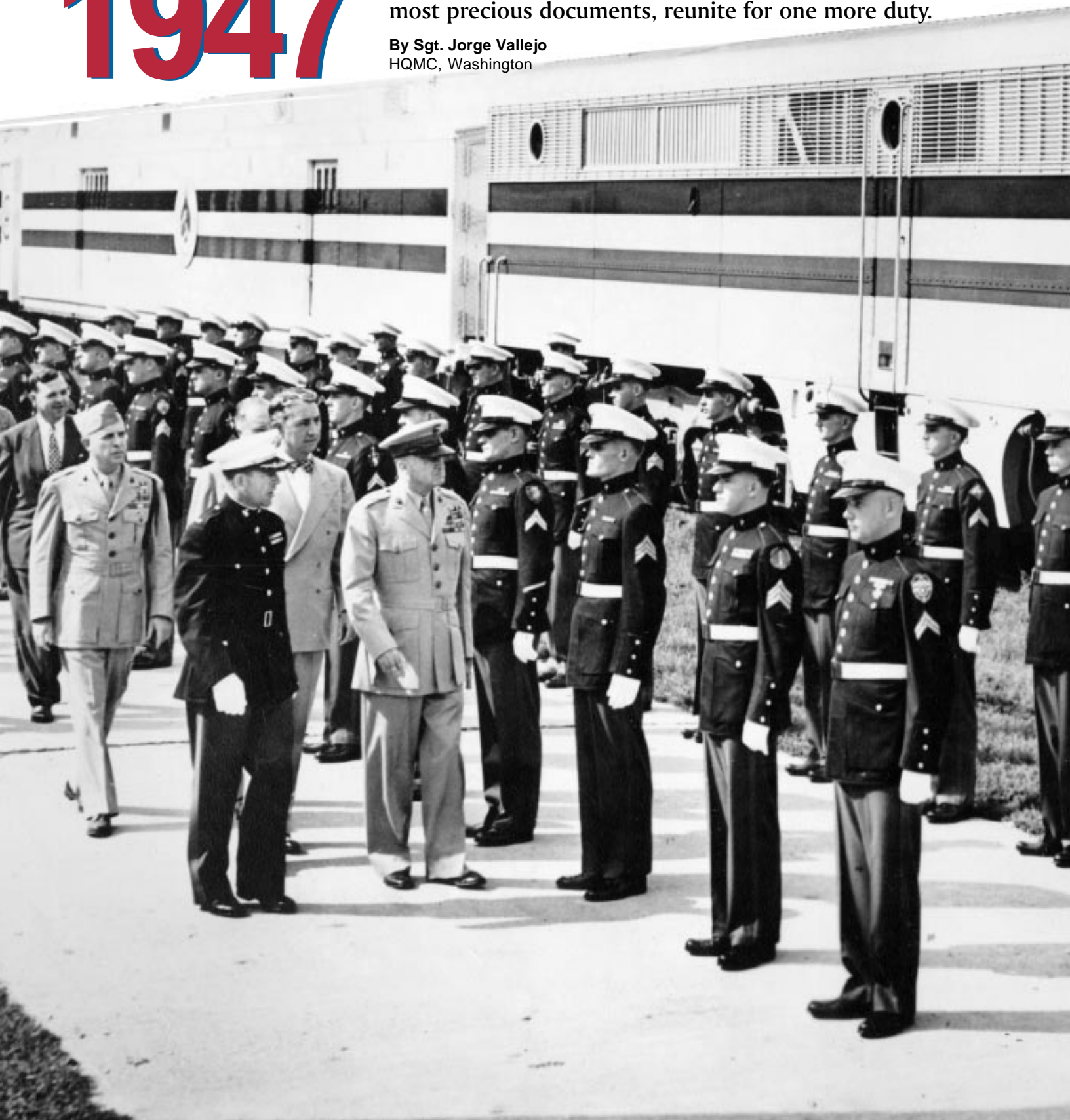
Pfc. Jonathan McIntire, 18, a basic electronics student performs a test with an A/C voltage oscilloscope.

# Freedom Train

## 1947

After all these years, the survivors of the Freedom Train Marine Detachment, trusted with guarding the nation's most precious documents, reunite for one more duty.

By Sgt. Jorge Vallejo  
HQMC, Washington



**F**ifty years ago, a hand-picked team of Marines boarded the Freedom Train and traveled across the United States with the mission of safeguarding the nation's most important documents.

Among the exhibits were a 13th century manuscript of the Magna Carta; President Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence; a copy of the Declaration of Independence attested and signed by

Benjamin Franklin and Silas Deane; the first edition of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense;" President George Washington's own copy of the Constitution; the Bill of Rights; President Abraham Lincoln's draft of the Emancipation Proclamation;





the Declaration by the United Nations; the documents signed by the Japanese upon their surrender during World War II aboard the *USS Missouri*; and the flag raised above Mount Suribachi by U.S. Marines in the battle of Iwo Jima.

Fifty years later, eight surviving members of the original Marine Security Guard Freedom Train Detachment once again boarded a train. No orders were issued, no alerts sounded. This time their mission was sightseeing as part of a reunion to tour the nation's capital.

This page in Marine Corps history began Sept. 17, 1947, in Philadelphia with the grand opening of the Freedom Train for public viewing. The Freedom Train ended its historical trip Jan. 20, 1949, near the 14th Street Bridge in Washington during the Presidential Inauguration of Harry S. Truman.

The Freedom Train Detachment was made up of 23 enlisted Marines, one Navy chief corpsman, and three Marine

officers. The train visited 322 cities and every state capital except Dover, Del., and Carson City, Nev. Covering more than 37,000 miles, it was the longest train ride in American history.

**“The idea behind the Freedom Train was to get Americans to feel pride not only about their country, but also themselves.”**

*—Master Gunnery Sgt. George Wood (Ret.), member of the Freedom Train Detachment*

George Wood, one of the detachment's enlisted Marines, recalled how the Freedom Train came to be.

“The idea to tour the nation's most historical documents started with Attorney General Tom Clark. After the Second World War, patriotism was at a low across the nation,” said Wood, who retired as a master gunnery sergeant. “The idea behind the Freedom Train was to get Americans to feel pride not only about their country, but also themselves. Truman, Clark, the American Heritage Foundation, and the National Archives pulled together to make this idea work.”

Of the 34 million people who turned out to see the exhibits, only 3.5 million

were able to board the train to view the historic documents, said retired Col. Hank Steadman, another member of the detachment. “We would close up in the evening and still have people outside

wanting to view the documents aboard the train.” Steadman was a young sergeant during the Freedom Train tour and later

was selected for a commissioning program.

The exhibits made up three cars of the train. Each club car had the exhibits displayed under 3/4-inch bullet-proof glass secured with pick-proof locks, according to Wood.

The cars were guarded by two Marines inside and two Marines armed with .45 caliber pistols outside, Steadman said.

The detachment's primary mission was the security of the documents. The Marines also played the role of ambassadors, explaining the history behind the exhibits. They also kept watchful eyes outside the train, providing crowd control

when necessary, Wood said. People came in one way and went out the other, always under close supervision of the Marines.

The Marines had a revolving watch, standing two watches during the day. A special detail armed with .45-caliber pistols stayed in the cars at night while the train traveled to its next destination. There was no mess aboard the train so the Marines were paid \$3 a day to eat in town. There was also no laundry facility, so they hung their laundry bags outside their doors at each stop. Their laundry was taken in the morning and, by the time they left the city, it was cleaned and pressed, and hanging outside their doorways.



**Marines of the Freedom Train detachment stand watch as precious historical documents belonging to the nation are loaded onto the train.**



**A postcard from 1947 shows the Freedom Train as it appeared then. The Freedom Train toured more than 300 cities from 1947-1949.**

Steadman recalled the strict regulations when it came to locking up the train after the day was done.

"Once we closed the exhibits, no one was allowed in the cars," Steadman said. He recalled an incident in which the Federal Bureau of Investigation requested to board the train after hours. The Marines held their ground and told the FBI they had to get permission from the detachment commanding officer. After contacting the executive officer, the FBI was finally able to board the train, proving no one, no matter who, could board without proper authorization.

The commanding officer, Col. Robert Scott, was well-liked and well-respected, said the members at the reunion. He personally selected the Marines of the detachment, who had volunteered for this duty and passed an intense screening process. Scott knew each of his men by first name, last name, home of record, and personality traits. He retired as a brigadier general and passed away in 1979. Scott's middle son, Barry Scott, plays an active role with the Freedom Train members today.

Scott amassed a large collection of photos and memorabilia from his time

with the Freedom Train. Barry has taken sole responsibility of the collection and enjoys the time spent with Freedom Train Marines.

"We were his three sons, and yet I knew who he was talking about when he would talk about 'His Boys,'" Barry said. "His Boys" were the Freedom Train Marines and "My three boys" meant us, his sons."

John Brown, a sergeant during the



**Freedom Train members visit the Marine Corps War Memorial during their visit to Washington, D.C. (L-R) Bill Eckenrod, George Wood, Hank Steadman, Richard Heitman, John Alexander, and John Cobb.**

tour, recalls the admiration the Marines had for Scott.

"He was like a father figure. He was the one I respected most in my life. He is someone I would have followed into the ground."

Though the Marines lived in tight quarters and worked a tedious schedule, they still found time to enjoy themselves.

"We all lived together in one club car for 17 months," Steadman said. For six months, the Marines were able to secretly house a detachment mascot. At least half of the detachment, Steadman recalls, claimed ownership of "Reddy," a Cocker Spaniel puppy. "For six months, we fed Reddy from our brown-bag lunches. After six months, Reddy was missing and nowhere to be found. He was considered AWOL after the disappearance."

The original schedule called for a 13-month tour. However, several communities raised funds to keep the train going another four months.

Brown thinks the Freedom Train may not fare as successfully today as it did when he rode the rails.

"Back then, people who came to see the train left with tears in their eyes. I don't know how people would react nowadays with so many things changed in our nation."

In 1993, an article in "*Leatherneck*" about the Freedom Train brought the surviving members together. While some had kept in contact over the years, not everyone knew where the others were.

After the release of the article, Steadman received numerous calls from other members. A short while later, they began plans for a golden anniversary and reunion. They planned to meet in Washington, go to Philadelphia on the actual 50-year anniversary and return to Washington for a tour. The members toured the Commandant's house, Marine Barracks Washington, ate lunch at the officers' club, and toured the Marine Corps Museum. They also paid a visit to the Marine Corps War Memorial.

"Some of us got together over the years for barbecues, but this was the first time we all got together," Brown said.

After their mission of guarding the Freedom Train was over, some of the Marines left active duty, while others decided to stay. Yet, the bond they built would endure and their friendship still lives today. □

# One Marine, Many Memories

From private to colonel, in peacetime and wartime, this Marine has been through it all.

By **Sgt. Timothy C. Hodge**  
RS Montgomery, Ala.

**R**etired Col. Henry W. Steadman had a long and storied career in the United States Marine Corps. He enlisted from Jackson, Miss., as a private June 1, 1945, just before World War II ended. He retired as a colonel 33 years later and now lives just outside Pensacola, Fla., in nearby Gulf Breeze.

During his time in the Corps, Steadman was assigned many memorable duties: he was a recruiting poster Marine; he was commissioned and became a pilot; after flight training, he flew 500 combat air missions during Vietnam, earning two Silver Stars for heroism, two Legions of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross; he commanded Marine Aircraft Group 29 at New River, N.C.; and he flew 21 different Marine aircraft.

But his fondest and most memorable tour of duty came while serving as a member of the hand-picked Marine Security Detachment charged with guarding the Freedom Train. The Freedom Train was a specially modified train designed to carry and display our nation's most precious documents representing our American heritage. The train carried original documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and 129 other priceless pieces of American history.

"Being selected to be a part of the detachment for the Freedom Train was one of the best times of my career," recalled Steadman. "It was a great honor to be one of only a few sergeants and corporals selected from across the Corps for this assignment."

The concept for the train was born in April 1946, when William Coblentz,



**Steadman posed for this recruiting poster as a sergeant while stationed at the 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District Reserve Headquarters in Chicago.**



assistant director of the Department of Justice's Public Information Division, decided to spend his lunch hour viewing the exhibits at the National Archives.

Believing it was unfortunate that most Americans would never get to the National Archives to see these documents, Coblenz suggested the possibility of a touring exhibit to his boss, Timothy A. McNery. McNery immediately presented the idea to Attorney General Tom Clark. Clark then informed President Harry S. Truman, who gave the idea his "strongest endorsement."

Steadman got involved with the project as a young sergeant while stationed at Camp Lejeune, N.C. A message came in for corporals and sergeants who were between 5 feet 11 inches and 6 feet 1 inch in height. None of the Marines knew what the detail was for but everyone knew it was something special.

On the day of the selection, about 225 Marines volunteered for the duty. Of those, eight were chosen and sent to Marine Barracks Washington to join other Marines from different units around the Corps who would make up the detachment.

"I remember that many of the Marines that made up the detachment wore shoulder patches from previous commands such as the Marine divisions and the amphibious corps. Some had a couple of rows of campaign ribbons from the war," he said.

The National Archives was the greatest contributor of display items to the project. In addition to loaning documents to be displayed, the National Archives was responsible for physically assembling the exhibit materials and for their preparation for the tour.

Documents were also loaned to the exhibit by historical societies, universities, government agencies, private collectors, and the Library of Congress.

Just as all of the exhibits that formed the cargo of the Freedom Train were loaned to the American Heritage Foundation, all eight units of the train were donated for the duration of the tour: the locomotive, a diesel-electric passenger unit; an equipment car; three display or exhibit cars; and three Pullman cars, often referred to as "domicile cars."

Before boarding the train to begin the tour in September 1947, the Marines



**Lieutenant Col. Robert F. Scott, the detachment commanding officer, accompanies Attorney General Tom Clark and the 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. A. A. Vandegrift, during an inspection of the detachment at Cameron Station in Alexandria, Va. Steadman is in the second rank, fourth Marine from the right.**

were inspected at Cameron Station in Alexandria, Virginia, by the 18th Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. A. A. Vandegrift.

More than a rolling museum, the Freedom Train was an educational and patriotic program that provided a vivid reminder of the greatness of America's heritage to a nation still recovering from economic depression and world war.

"One of the things I remember best about the tour is how the crowds who saw the exhibit would react to all that history on display. The people were genuinely amazed. You could feel the patriotism and pride in each city we visited," Steadman said.

A typical stop on the tour would be the culmination of a week of rededication to the principles of America organized and planned by the civic, fraternal, and patriotic organizations from that area. When the Freedom Train arrived in the communities, it was much like a patriotic holiday. Flags were everywhere; school children were hurried to the train stations for tours; local radio stations and newspapers were out in force to cover the event; and most

importantly, citizens turned out in droves to view the precious documents held inside the Freedom Train. In some cities, people stood in line for several hours to get a glimpse of the history aboard the Freedom Train.

After his tour with the Freedom Train was over, Steadman remained in the Marine Corps as an administrator and was assigned to the 9th Marine Corps Recruiting District Reserve Headquarters in Chicago.

Later, he applied for and received a commission as an officer. He then went on to become a decorated pilot. In 1978, he retired as a colonel after 33 years of service. Steadman then worked nine years at the Navy Air Training Command in Pensacola, Fla., supervising aviation students in helicopter flight simulators.

Steadman earned bachelor's degrees from Memphis State College and George Washington University and a master's from the University of Southern California.

"From private to colonel, peacetime and combat," Steadman said, "it was a great career." □



**Col. Henry Steadman prior to retirement in 1978.**

# Marine's Sea Chest Survives 150 Years

Seventh generation descendent of Archibald Henderson donates 18th century sea chest to Marine Corps museum.

By Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce Jr.  
MarBks, Washington

The misty morning seemed to envelope the Marines of the frigate *USS Constitution* as Capt. Archibald Henderson barked out the plan of the day to his weary platoon.

Suddenly, the ship was attacked by a British vessel. The captain ran to his sea chest, pushed his uniforms aside, drew his sword from its scabbard, and prepared for battle.

While these events may be lore, the sea chest, a tangible link to a Marine hero, was donated to the Marine Corps Historical Division last July. On the steps of a rural home near Williamstown, W.Va., Michael B. Rolston, current owner of the historic family home called Henderson Hall, presented the footlocker-sized chest to Marine Corps officials.

The chest has no special markings or dates and nothing inside to make it useful, but it could have spent more than 40 years supporting the travels and sea service of the longest-serving commandant in Marine Corps history, according to Ken Smith-Christmas, a curator for the Marine Corps Historical Division.

Although there is no documentation to support the theory, Henderson may have received the chest upon his commis-

sioning in 1806, explained Smith-Christmas.

Henderson left the chest with his nephew, George Washington Henderson, in 1847 for storage and promised to retrieve it on a later visit.

He never returned.

The chest, made of yellow pine, remained on

Smith-Christmas and 1st Lt. Darren S. Boyd were on hand to receive the artifact.

"It is always a big deal to get anything dating from the 18th or 19th century," said Smith-Christmas. "There are so very few artifacts still around from that period because the Marine Corps was historically small. To get something of this importance associated with

someone who has such

stature with the Marine Corps is amazing."

Henderson dedicated more than 53 years of service to the Marine Corps, gaining him distinction as "the Grand Old Man of the Marine Corps."

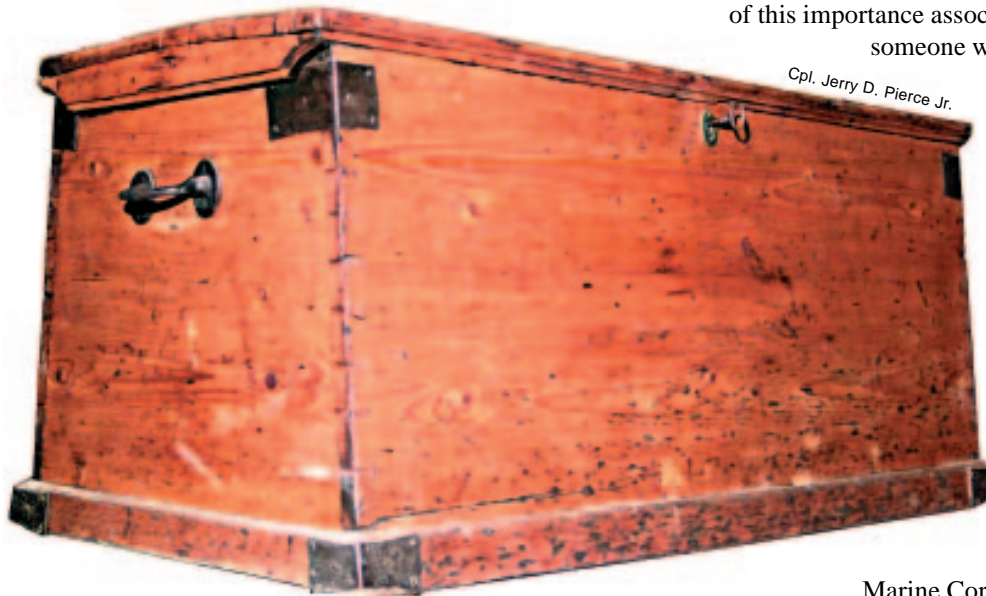
After only 14 years as a

Marine Corps officer,

Henderson became commandant at the rank of brevet major in the 1820s and remained in that position until his death in 1859, for a total of nearly 39 years as commandant.

"So many significant events in Marine Corps history occurred while Archibald Henderson served as commandant," said Smith-Christmas. "We are sincerely grateful for the generosity of the Henderson family."

The sea chest will be added to the "Age of Henderson" display in the Marine Corps Museum at the Washington Navy Yard. □



Cpl. Jerry D. Pierce Jr.

the second floor of Henderson Hall for the next 150 years.

Through the years, the sea chest has been passed down through seven generations of the Henderson family. Most recently, Constance Hoblitzell Michael, a distant relative of the Henderson line, came into possession of the sea chest after her brother passed away in 1995.

Upon inheriting the sea chest, Michael gave Rolston permission to donate the chest to the Marine Corps Historical Division.

# The Life & Times of Archibald Henderson

**Compiled by Sgt. Kurt Sutton**  
HQMC, Washington

**Jan. 21, 1783** — Born in Colchester, Va.

**June 4, 1806** — Appointed a second lieutenant.

**March 6, 1807** — Promoted to first lieutenant.

**April 1, 1811** — Promoted to captain — Threatens to quit the Marine Corps as a young officer as a result of marginal assignments.

**Dec. 29, 1812** — Participates in engagement between *USS Constitution* and British vessel *Java*.

**1814** — Brevetted to major, partly as a result of actions on *USS Constitution*.

**Feb. 20, 1815** — Brevet Maj. Henderson commands Marine Detachment aboard the *USS Constitution*. Gains fame in action against the British ships *HMS Cyane* and *HMS Levant*.

**Sept. 1817** — Commandant of the Marine Corps Franklin Wharton accused by Henderson of conduct unbecoming an officer and neglect of duty for not taking the field during the Battle of Bladensburg; Wharton court-martialed but acquitted, much to the disgust of Henderson and others. After Wharton dies in office (Sept. 1, 1818), Anthony Gale assumes the Lt. Col. Commandant position (March 3, 1819) by rites of seniority, although his leadership is suspect.

**April 1820** — Marines on board *Cyane* (now refitted and in American service) help capture slave ships off the coast of West Africa.

**Oct. 16, 1820** — Gale charged and convicted of "... being intoxicated in common dram shops and other places of low repute in the City of Washington ..." and other charges; sentenced to dismissal from the service.

**Oct. 17, 1820** — Henderson becomes fifth and youngest Commandant; — Henderson orders new officers to be assigned to HQMC first for training; this is the beginning of The Basic School.

**1827** — Marines help search for

pirates in the Greek archipelago.

**1828** — Andrew Jackson becomes President; later recommends Congress disband the Marine Corps and place its members in the Army.

**1831** — Secretary of the Navy recommends "discontinuance of the Marine Corps ..."

**Jan. 1, 1832** — Marines and Sailors land in the Falkland Islands to recapture



**This original painting of Fifth Commandant of the Marine Corps, brevet Brig. Gen. Archibald Henderson, hangs in the Home of the Commandants, Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C.**

impounded ships.

**Feb. 7, 1832** — 250 Marines and Sailors recapture pirated U.S. Merchantman *Friendship*, in Kuala Batu, Sumatra.

**June 30, 1834** — Congress passes "An Act For the Better Organization of the Marine Corps," raising the rank of commandant to colonel.

— Authorized strength of the Corps listed at 63 officers, 1,224 enlisted, although actual strength is a third fewer.

— Marines change uniforms from blue coats to green with gray trousers.

**1836-1842** — Seminole War

— Colonel Commandant Henderson

volunteers a regiment of Marines for service; President Jackson orders Marines to service May 23, 1836.

— Legend has it that when Henderson left, he penned a note and stuck it to his hatch, stating: "Gone to fight the Indians. Will return when the war is over." Henderson brevetted to brigadier general for actions during Seminole War.

**November 1843** — Marines and Sailors land in Liberia to investigate murder of Americans.

**1846-1848** — Mexican War

— Henderson offers his Marines for service.

**March 9, 1847** — Landing at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

**Sept. 13, 1847** — Battle begins leading up to the capture of Chapultepec Castle, just outside of Mexico City.

— Citizens of Washington give Henderson a new set of colors with the famous words: "From Tripoli to the Halls of the Montezumas."

**1852-1854** — Three landings by Marines in Nicaragua.

**April 1854** — China in midst of rebellion; Marine guard put ashore from *Plymouth* alongside British Royal Marines to protect their respective nations' property at Shanghai.

**May 19, 1855** — *Powhatten* lands Marines in Shanghai for a second time.

**November 1855** — Landing at Montevideo, Uruguay.

**1856** — Marines land at Panama City, Panama, to protect newly constructed railroad.

**Nov. 20, 1856** — Marines and Sailors land at Canton, China.

— During Henderson's tenure as commandant, Marines made nearly 50 amphibious landings.

**1857** — Marines called to quell rioting in Washington. A cannon is aimed at the Marines and the mob tells them to clear out before they start firing. Henderson walks directly to the cannon and places his body at the end of the muzzle, thus preventing it from being discharged.

**Jan. 6, 1859** — Archibald Henderson dies suddenly at the age of 76. □



## Winning the Marine Way

Courtesy of Phil Hoffman

With Marine Corps style and discipline, this Marine major has led his team at the U.S. Naval Academy to victory after victory. But lightweight football is only a short game. His kind of coaching will serve his athletes and students their entire lives.

**By Petty Officer 3rd Class Eva D. Janzen**  
Annapolis, Md.

**W**ith 7:27 left in the game, Navy's Jose Perez hit a 22-yard field goal to lead the Midshipmen to a 24-21 win over Army and earn Navy its third Eastern Lightweight Football League title in a row under head coach Marine Maj. Rick Pagel.

Pagel joined the Corps to fly helicopters, but never thought his resume would include coaching a football team.

He graduated from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., in 1984. As a midshipman, Pagel played four years on the varsity team as a defensive end. After graduation, he was an assistant coach for the lightweight team. More than 10 years later, he is now finishing a three-year stint as the Navy Lightweight Football team's head coach.

Aside from his full-time coaching position, Pagel heads the conditioning squads and weight control program, and teaches various physical education classes at the academy.

"I saw this billet as the perfect opportunity to watch the students grow and develop into commissioned officers, and to have the chance to influence that development," said Pagel.

"I believe athletics is very important in the development of midshipmen as future officers. They learn to make quick decisions and build mental and physical



**Maj. Rick Pagel coaches the Lightweight Football team from the sidelines.**

stamina and endurance. They learn teamwork and how to perform under pressure. Everything they need to know as officers they learn on the field," said Pagel.

"The lightweight football players have a very strong sense of team. It's just like having my own Marine unit," said Pagel, who previously served in Okinawa, Japan, and San Diego.

Pagel advises midshipmen to expect adversity and physical and mental challenges, and to perform as a team to achieve the command mission. "There are going to be hard times when they get out there. There are times when they are going to sweat and bleed and wonder if the hard work is worth it all. They just need to persevere and realize they are involved with a team," said Pagel.

It was this leadership that took the lightweight athletes to their third con-

secutive league championship. Deputy Physical Education Officer Professor Ed Peery says it was a privilege to have the Marine on his staff.

"We are talking about a guy who leaves a definite impression on you," said Peery. "I have seen many officers come through, and he is one of the most outstanding overall. The 'mids' just respect him. He does not do just one thing that impresses me, he does so much. He always has the time to take on a challenge."

Pagel says the "challenge" is exactly why he picked the Corps, and the academy. This is not the place you come to and expect to have an easy time, he said.

"I learned a strong work ethic from the academy. I had to," Pagel said. "I developed time management skills and a sense of humility." □

## A Career That Will Serve You Well

Court stenographers are needed to fill 19 school seats for one of the Marine Corps' smallest Military Occupational Specialties.

By Fred Carr, Jr.  
HQMC, Washington

The lawyer's voice rises and falls, slows and accelerates, as he delivers a passionate oration, punctuated by verbal inflection and physical gestures. There's a lot at stake in the courtroom, and everything that takes place will be subjected to further review. That review will be based on a meticulous transcript of the proceedings, captured by the skilled ears and fingers of the courtroom stenographer — sometimes, at the rate of more than 200 words per minute.

There are currently only 33 Marines serving in Military Occupational Specialty 4429 — courtroom reporter — making it one of the smallest specialty populations in the Corps. Now, the Marine Corps has announced it needs 19 volunteers to undergo the two years of schooling necessary to learn the skills involved in this often overlooked corner of court room drama.

"We are looking for Marine corporals and sergeants willing to make a lateral move and attend a very demanding school," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael Barker, legal services chief at Headquarters Marine Corps.

To volunteer, Marines must meet the following prerequisites:

- be a citizen of the United States
- be a corporal or sergeant at the time of application
- be a high school graduate
- have a minimum score of 110 on the general-technical and clerical portions of the ASVAB
- type 60 words per minute

Successful candidates will attend the School of Professional Studies in Springfield, Va. Here, they will learn to operate the stenotype machine. The keys on this machine have groups of letters



Staff Sgt. Eric C. Tausch

**Sgt.'s Steven K. Perry (right) and D. J. McKenzie take a shot at deciphering their "second language" in class at the stenographer's school in Springfield, Va. The students wear civilian clothes throughout their two-year school.**

representing words instead of the normal single letters associated with computer keyboard or typewriter keys. Armed with these shortcuts, and a familiarity of courtroom language, a skilled stenographer can capture all that is said during the proceedings.

To graduate from the school, Marines must be able to transcribe at 200 words per minute, according to Barker. To earn state certification, they must improve their speed to 225 words per minute.

If Marines are concerned that learning a courtroom profession may keep them away from the fleet, they need not worry, said Barker. "The Marine Corps' legal system is just as expeditionary as the Marines it serves," he said. "Stenographers can deploy to any location where there is a command with courts-martial authority."

Even the stenotype machine is "Marine-ized," since it is designed to operate on both electric and manual modes.

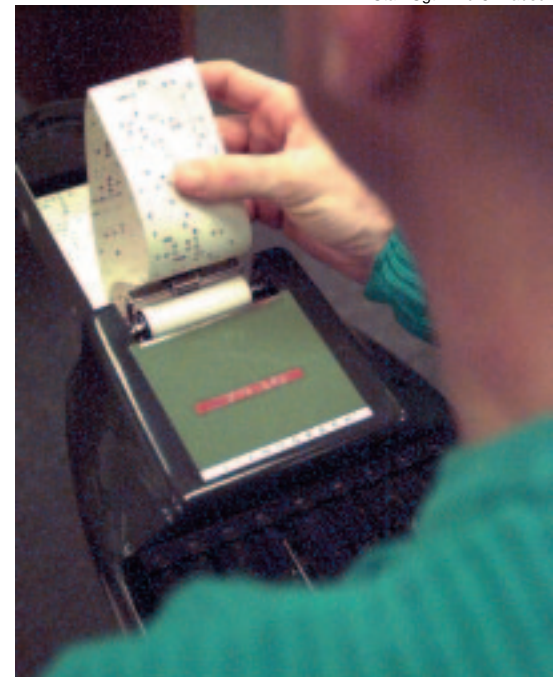
While attending school, Marines are administratively assigned to Headquarters Battalion and are authorized to reside in the bachelor enlisted quarters at Henderson Hall, Arlington, Va.

"This is the type of skill that can lead to a lucrative vocation after your Marine career," said Barker. "Given all the court room proceedings in our society, I don't see the demand for court room reporters diminishing anytime soon."

Applications must be submitted by March 30. Complete details are contained in ALMAR 009/98, published as CMC Message 080901Z Jan 98.

The Headquarters Marine Corps point of contact is Master Gunnery Sgt. Michael L. Barker at 703-614-2543 or DSN 224-2543. □

Staff Sgt. Eric C. Tausch



**Sgt. Perry reviews the results of his efforts typing part of his newly learned language — StenEd.**

# Modesty and Courage

This Marine's combat actions on Sugar Loaf Hill, Okinawa, recognized after nearly a lifetime.

By **Sgt. Kurt Sutton**  
HQMC, Washington

**C**orporal James L. Day, 19, fought furiously, beating back successive attacks from the Japanese with little or no help from his decimated squad. Marines around him lay wounded and dying in the rain of bullets and incoming artillery shells.

Risking his own life, the young Marine rescued as many of his comrades as he could and was wounded himself during his three days of fighting on Sugar Loaf Hill, Okinawa.

At battle's end, May 17, 1945, more than 100 enemy dead were counted near his fighting hole.

"During that battle, I was scared at times because I was alone a lot. The fighting was slow and then it was hot and heavy," Day said. But bravery and a will to live prevailed.

On Jan. 20, retired Maj. Gen. James L. Day, 72, mustered another kind of bravery.

On a platform in the East Wing of the White House, he stood in front of more than 100 guests and members of the media as President William J. Clinton bestowed upon him the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in combat.

"This medal confirms what every Marine in this room already knows," said Clinton.

"The name Jim Day belongs on the rolls of the Corps' greatest heroes, alongside those of Dan Daly, Smedley Butler, Joe Foss, and John Basilone."

More than 50 years earlier, Day was busy working on a farm and maturing into a young adult in Overland, Mo. He would eventually move to East St. Louis.

"The recruiters had come to our school but there weren't any Marines,"

Sgt. Kurt Sutton



**Maj. Gen. James L. Day, USMC (Ret.), talks with a Marine during the reception following his Medal of Honor presentation ceremony Jan. 20. President William J. Clinton presented Day with the Medal for actions on Okinawa, wondering if it would be safer standing next to him in combat or farther away, considering Day was awarded six Purple Hearts, three Silver Stars, and a Bronze Star during his actions in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam.**

he said. One day he was tagging along with a friend who wanted to join the Navy. "I went with my buddy to the recruiting station and saw a Marine poster that sparked my curiosity."

"There was a sense of patriotism for most of us at that time," he said. "Especially after seeing *Wake Island*, the movie involving Marines in combat. Everybody wanted to join."

The scrappy 5-foot, 6-inch 17-year-old signed up for a hitch in the Corps in 1943.

After boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Day was

assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Marines, 6th Marine Division. He served during operations in the Marshall Islands and on Guam. "I think I landed in the first or second wave of three different invasions," he said.

"One of my favorite platoon sergeants used to say, 'If you're a Marine, you've got to take what you need and hold what you got.' I thought Okinawa and my experience on Sugar Loaf was even worse than that."

It was much worse — 12,000 Marines, Sailors, and Soldiers lost their lives fighting the Japanese.

Private First Class Anthony Marascola, from Pueblo, Colo., and Day were buddies from their early enlisted days in the Corps. At one point, though, the two Marines lost contact with each other for 30 years.

"General Day wrote him a citation for a Silver Star," said Anthony's brother, Richard. "He never got it and, during a reunion in the 1980s, the general found out. General Day made sure that he did everything he could to see that he got it, even though it was downgraded to a Bronze Star."

Anthony, who had always talked about Day as if he were a Marine's Marine, passed away in 1993. That is when his family got a chance to meet the man Anthony had talked about for nearly 50 years.

"At the funeral, General Day impressed everyone so much and was such a humble gentleman, that we asked him to stay longer and visit. By the next day, we loved him as much as my brother did," said Richard. The two still keep in touch.

Like Anthony's citation for the Silver Star from Okinawa, Day's citation for the Medal of Honor was also lost,